

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 SS-15

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R 161703Z APR 75

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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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PASS TREASURY FOR COOPER, CEA FOR GREENSPAN, AND FRB
FOR SOLOMON

NEW DELHI PASS BENNETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, OECD

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN OECD'S TOP ECONOMIC STAFF

REF: OECD PARIS 3117

1. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION: AN OECD STAFF NOTICE
WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 3 DESIGNATING (A) JOHN D. FAY TO
ACT AS HEAD OF THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
(FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY-
GENERAL FRED ATKINSON) AND (B) STEPHEN N. MARRIS TO BE
ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. UNTIL THE
APPOINTMENT OF A SUCCESSOR, MARRIS WILL CONTINUE, CON-
CURRENTLY, TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL ECONOMICS
BRANCH OF THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

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THESE APPOINTMENTS HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE

STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT'S TOP MANAGEMENT AND ENLARGE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRINGING IN A HIGHLY QUALIFIED AMERICAN ECONOMIST INTO A KEY POSITION IN THE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENT (FYI). THE ABOVE PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARD REVAMPING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AREA OF THE SECRETARIAT. THE NEW ECONOMIC ADVISER'S JOB IS ENVISIONED AS A HIGH-LEVEL STAFF POSITION DEALING WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IN A BROAD SWEEP AND WITH A LONGER-TERM TIME HORIZON, RATHER THAN BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS (WHICH REMAIN IN THE ECONOMIC AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT). IN CONCEPT THE ECONOMIC ADVISER'S POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT HELD BY ULF LANTZKE WHEN WEARING HIS HAT AS SPECIAL ADVISER FOR ENERGY TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS CHOSEN STEPHEN MARRIS FOR THIS NEW ROLE BOTH IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MARRIS' ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION AND COMPELLING PROFILE IN THE STAFF AND, APPARENTLY, TO GIVE MARRIS A PROMOTION WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IN ORDER TO INDUCE HIM TO CONTINUE WITH THE SECRETARIAT.

3. THE SUBTLE PHRASING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JOHN FAY, THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, WILL "ACT AS" THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT PROBABLY REFLECTS A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING: (A) PRESERVING FLEXIBILITY FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL NOT TO KEEP FAY IN THIS JOB AS A PERMANENT MATTER, WHILE (B) STILL GIVING FAY RECOGNITION AT A TIME WHEN HIS FORMER SUBORDINATE, MARRIS, IS BEING PROMOTED OVER HIS HEAD (AT LEAST IN A PROTOCOL SENSE EVEN IF NOT IN A STRICTLY CHAIN-OF-COMMAND SENSE), AND (C) UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE NUMBER OF HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS THAT WILL BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AFTER THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZATION AND

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REFORM OF THE SECRETARIAT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. AT LEAST UNTIL THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN LOOKED INTO, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY ATKINSON AS BOTH ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT WILL REMAIN UNFILLED.

4. WHILE THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF POSITIONS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT YET CERTAIN, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ATKINSON'S DEPARTURE AND MARRIS' PROMOTION HAVE FURTHER INCREASED THE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO AN EXPERIENCED AMERICAN ECONOMIST IN THE SECRETARIAT. HITHERTO, ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE RECRUITMENT OF A PERSON TO FILL THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL ECONOMICS BRANCH WHICH HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF EDUARDO MERIGO IN 1973. THE CHANCES THAT A CANDIDATE WITH OUTSTANDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR THAT JOB MIGHT NOW STEP IN TO THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION (STILL CONCURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY MARRIS) AND PERHAPS EVEN MOVE IN AS AN EVENTUAL DEPUTY TO FAY WOULD SEEM TO BE EXCELLENT. HOWEVER, THE DIRECTORSHIP WILL PRESUMABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE QUESTION OF PERSONNEL SLOTS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RESOLVED. THE MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES INTENSIFY THE SEARCH FOR A QUALIFIED AMERICAN CANDIDATE, WHO SHOULD IDEALLY HAVE A STRONG ACADEMIC BACKGROUND IN GENERAL, MONETARY, AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ECONOMICS, COMBINED WITH SOLID

GOVERNMENTAL OR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY POLICY EXPERIENCE
IN THESE FIELDS.
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